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U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/715,539  
P24378.A06 (S 1025/US)

PATENT APPLICATION  
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Jean-Luc VEUX et al. )  
 ) Group Art Unit 3617  
Appln. No. : 10/715,539 )  
 ) Examiner Jason R. Bellinger  
Docket No. : P24378 )  
 ) Confirmation No. 5585  
Customer No.: 07055 )  
 )  
Filed : November 19, 2003 )  
 )  
Title : SEALING STRIP FOR A RIM OF A WHEEL )  
 ) AND A RIM HAVING A SEALING STRIP )

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

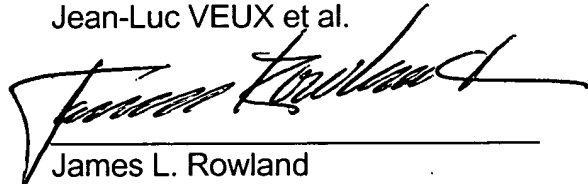
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop **Issue Fee**  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

This is in response to the Reasons for Allowance attached to the Notice of Allowability (form PTOL-37), mailed June 22, 2006.

Although Applicants do not herewith express disagreement with the Examiner in his statement of reasons for the allowance of the claims of the instant application, Applicants note that the allowed claims recite a plurality of features and that the patentability of the allowed claims should be considered to be based upon the totality of the features recited, *i.e.*, the invention "considered as a whole", as defining over the prior art. *Panduit Corp. v. Dennison Mfg. Co.*, 810 F.2d 1561, 1 USPQ2d 1593 (Fed. Cir. 1987). For example, Applicants submit that the reasons cited in the attachment to the Notice of Allowability do not preclude the existence of additional reasons that can be cited to support the patentability of the claims, *i.e.*, the independent claims as well as the various dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean-Luc VEUX et al.



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July 26, 2006  
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